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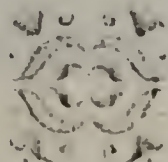
An Echo  
of  
The Battle of Plattsburgh

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By Mrs. Milo H. Marshall

Set down by *Mrs. Charles H. Signor* and  
*George Stephenson Bixby*, printed in the  
*Plattsburgh Daily Republican*, June 20th,  
1927, and reprinted for the *Saranac Chap-*  
*ter, Daughters of the American Revolution*

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CHAMPLAIN:  
Privately Printed at the *Moorsfield Press*  
1929

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# The Bank of London

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*SARANAC CHAPTER*  
*DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION*

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Helen Mariette Lawrence Marshall

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## Foreword

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have contributed to the production of this book. The names are arranged in alphabetical order of the surnames. The names of the persons who have contributed to the production of this book are: [illegible]

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*One hundred fifty-six* copies printed from the original metal by  
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the twelfth production of the *Press*. No. 42 .





An Echo Of The

## *Foreword*

THIS little pamphlet is printed as an example of the many interesting stories of local history which are not easily accessible, and which are of growing interest to the unusually intelligent children of today, who often long to discover the patriotic and picturesque backgrounds of the localities in which they are growing up, and of which they know so little.

GEORGE S. BIXBY

Plattsburgh, N.Y., July 21, 1928





# An Echo Of The Battle Of Plattsburgh

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(Told by Helen Mariette Lawrence Marshall—Mrs. Milo Henry Marshall—to Mrs. Charles H. Signor and George Stephenson Bixby.)

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When I was a little girl I heard a great deal about the invasion of our country by the British, and about the Battle of Plattsburgh. It was quite natural I should, for I lived in a house on the route of the invaders, with my father who actually saw some of the stirring events of the invasion.

At the time of the battle my father Putnam Lawrence lived with my grandfather William Lawrence at what is now known as Chazy Landing, where Grandfather was one of the first settlers, having built the first dock there and later, about 1807, a substantial two-story house which is still standing at the present landing.

What I can tell about the War of 1812 comes to me from my father and from my grandmother Persis Wood who lived with my grandfather in their house at the Landing when the British fleet and army passed on their way to Plattsburgh in September 1814.

Later my parents and grandparents lived in the two-story frame house at what is now known as West Chazy which was built about 1818 by Grandfather when the place was called Lawrence's Corners. Grandfather built it when he moved there, putting in folding doors so as to make a large room on the ground floor which was used for the first regular church services held there, and for other public meetings. It is the house on the road which runs easterly towards Chazy near the Library and nearly opposite the Honsinger house, and was originally painted yellow.

Father, Putnam Lawrence, was





born at the Landing in 1801 in the first frame house erected there, so at the time of the Battle of Plattsburgh he was thirteen years old. He was the first male child born in the town.

Grandfather came from Connecticut by way of North Hero Island in Lake Champlain, where he found my grandmother, Persis Wood, and they were married when she was seventeen years old. My father married Emily Ketch in her youth. I was married when I was seventeen, so you see we girls were not so very slow in the old times, and even though we missed some of the thrilling times which girls have today, still we had plenty of excitements of our own. We certainly saw enough of war, for my grandparents saw the Revolution, and with their children experienced the War of 1812, while I saw the troops march away in 1861 and went through the four harrowing years of the Civil War.

From very early times for very many years Chazy Landing was a busy place where boats brought goods of all sorts for the back country in the north. For a long time it was the most northerly steamboat landing on Lake Champlain. When the British fleet crossed the line bound for Plattsburgh it anchored off the Landing and spent days there getting ready for battle, fitting and rigging and hammering and pounding at a great rate. There the fleet kept up connection with the

army which passed south by Chazy Village. Officers and men came ashore, and staff officers from the army came to the Landing. Just before the Battle quite a company of officers with a detachment of troops came and made camp near our house. On the tenth of September the ships moved on up the Lake on their fateful expedition, to round Cumberland Head and meet the American ships on Sunday the eleventh.

It was just on the eve of the Battle as it was told to me, when the soldiers rolled up casks and barrels, stood them on end and laid boards across to make a table. Some of the casks contained wine, Jamaica rum, and other liquors which in those days were by many considered to be good to drink.

Over the boards they spread fine linen table cloths, and set the table with china, glass and silver, and made quite a banquet. Grandfather was an invited guest, and the rest of the household looked on. Father, then thirteen years old, saw it all and told me about it many times. The affair was quite a celebration in anticipation of the capture of Plattsburgh and the American fleet. Plattsburgh would make quite a nice breakfast for them, they said. They had toasts which were of course full of British sentiment. And yet they were very polite to Grandfather, and called on him for a toast. His toast was: "They shall beat their spears





into pruning forks, and their swords into plowshares, and nations shall war no more." He told them they would be back in three days.

They finished their banquet in high glee, and some of them I imagine were rather hilarious. Then the officers set out with their detachment for Plattsburgh by land. The road was open to Plattsburgh by that time, and all they had to do was march to their destination. I imagine this detachment was used to keep up the connection between the fleet and the army, and that quite likely they were on Cumberland Head when the naval battle took place.

After several days of fighting on the banks of the Saranac, came the battle on the water, and the first our people at the Landing and at Chazy knew of the result was by the movement of the troops in retreat early on the morning of the twelfth of September, and by the report of Squire Jullus C. Hubbell of Chazy who went to Cumberland Head and actually saw the engagement. Some of the British galleys which escaped passed close to the Landing in their flight. They came near enough so that Elisha Belding and Charles Lucia shouted at them "Hurrah for Uncle Sam!" and the British fired on them, Belding getting a bullet in the thigh. The galleys went on their way, but the same officers who held their banquet at the Landing, or some of them, stopped on their return, and

while they were polite and well behaved they were very crestfallen. Grandfather, rather indiscreetly I think, reminded them that he had "told them so", and they begged him to say no more for they felt badly enough as it was.

Then they went on, taking their baggage train with them, and taking a yoke of Grandfather's oxen. Probably they needed the oxen to help them over some difficult places in the road before they got to the main line of march, and they evidently did not intend to keep the oxen. Grandfather sent Father after the animals: "Putnam," said he, "you follow and find those oxen and bring them back. Don't come back without them." Father went and brought back the oxen, and was quite a hero for "capturing" the cattle, though I suspect that he found them grazing beside the road and drove them in without any resistance from the enemy. It was however, quite a feat for a boy of thirteen. I have heard people remark on it and ask if a boy of thirteen of today would do as well. I think myself that a boy of today if he had such a chance would jump at it and would bring back whatever he might be sent after. You can see that I have a great deal of confidence in the boys and girls of today, and I have a personal interest in them down to the fifth generation from my grandparents William and Persis Lawrence.

There were several quite active





days as the retreat passed through Chazy. Then the American officers and soldiers came back, and were more or less active that fall, and in the winter came the news of the Treaty of Ghent, which meant Peace, and our town settled down to the business of storekeeping, tanning, milling, blacksmithing, farming, and at the Landing shipping and warehousing and supplying the back country with all kinds of goods.

We lived after I was born in a stone house at West Chazy which was built by Father to replace a frame house. The location was near the corner. Father kept a store, and used to take long journeys to the cities for goods. Once while he was away the house burned down, and when he came back he stood in the road looking at the ruins, and said "I'll build a house there now that won't burn down." So he built the stone house that is still standing, the third house north of the corner, on the west side of the main road running north. It had a narrow escape however, for there was a fire not so very many weeks ago at the homestead which destroyed some of the outbuildings. But Father's fireproof construction withstood the flames.

To show how serious minded our forefathers were in their regard for their Maker, and in matters of religion generally I may quote the preamble to the will of my grandfather William Lawrence who died No-

vember 21, 1842, aged 68 years, as follows:

"In the Name of God Amen, I, William Lawrence of Chazy in the County of Clinton and State of New York, do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner following: First, I resign my soul into the hands of Almighty God, hoping and believing in a remission of my sins by the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ; and my body I commit to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named: And my worldly estate I give and devise as follows:"

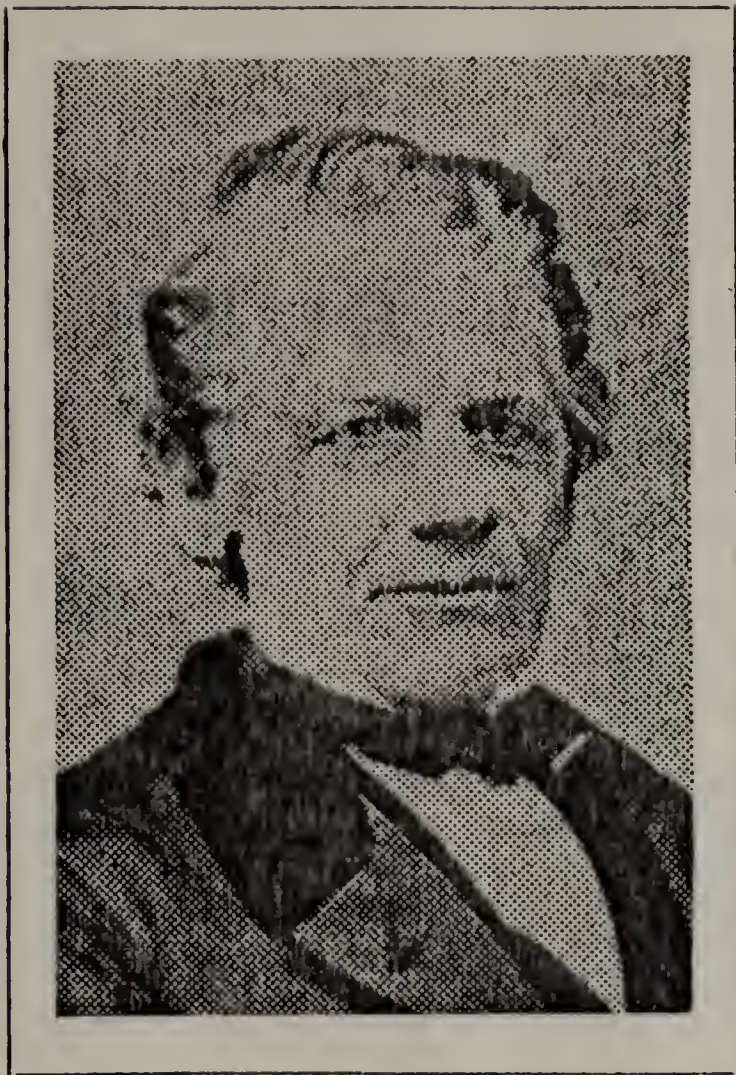
#### THE LAWRENCE LINEAGE

The Lawrence family from which Mrs. Milo H. Marshall is descended, is described by Burke in his "General Armory" as Lawrence of Ashton Hall and Washington, County Lancaster; Prior's Court and Sevenhampton, County Gloucester; Fishbury, County Wilts; Crich Grange, County Dorset, and St. James', County Suffolk; descended from Sir Robert Lawrence, of Ashton Hall, who accompanied Richard I to the Holy Land, and gaining fame at the siege of Acre, obtained for his arms, "Ar, a cross raguly gu. Crest, a demi turbot, ar. tail upward". Motto, Quaere Invenio.

Sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall, in Lancastershire, England, was the first ancestor of the family of which we have any knowledge. He accompanied Richard Couer de





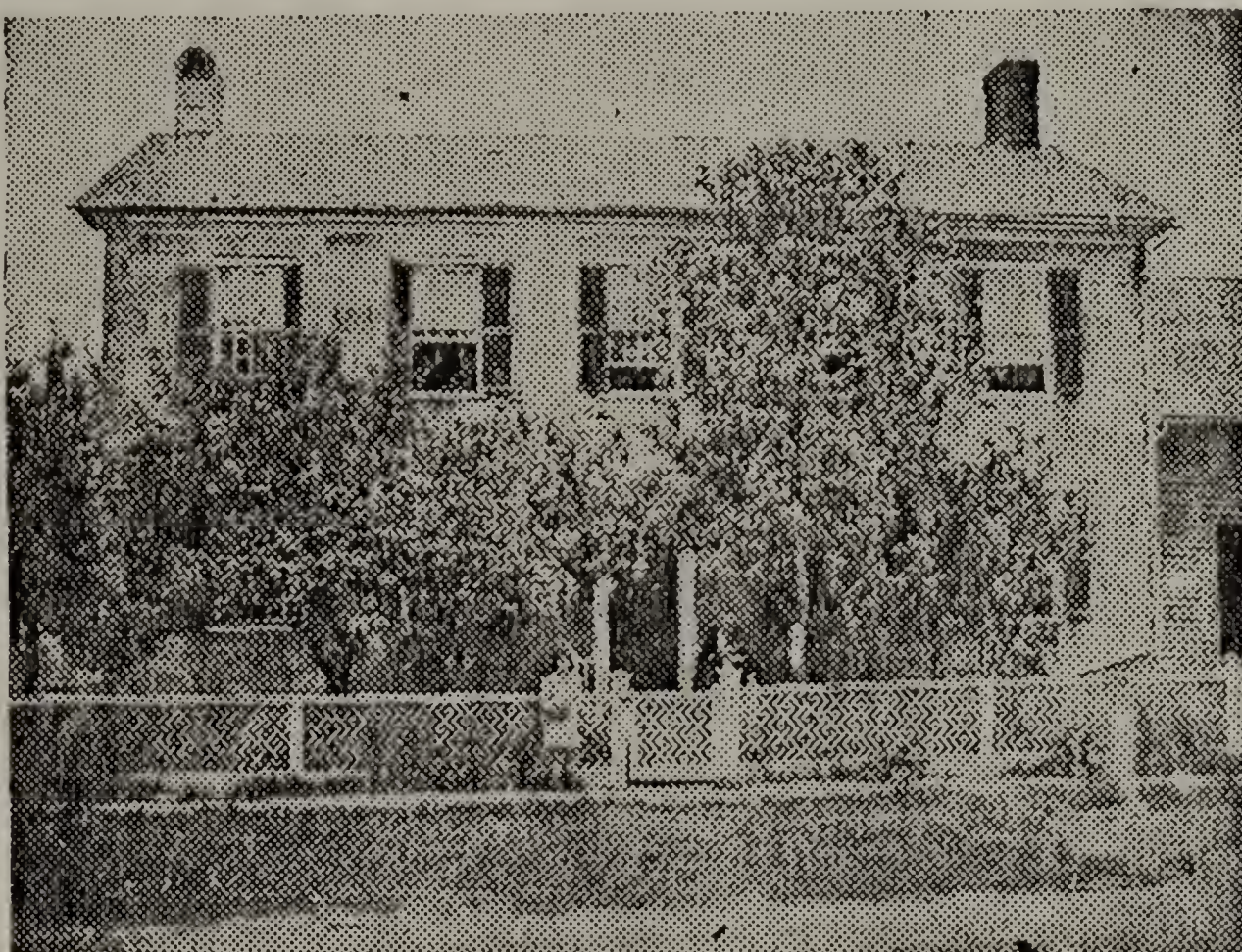


Putnam Lawrence of Chazy

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The Putnam Lawrence House, West Chazy, N. Y.





Lion in his famous expedition to Palestine, where he distinguished himself in the siege of St. Jean d'Acre, in 1119, by being the first to plant the banner of the cross on the battlements of that town, for which he was knighted by King Richard. He also received a coat of arms, the impression of which is still preserved, on the seal appended to a document of William Lawrence in 1680, and of Richard Lawrence, 1711. These seals can be seen in the Surrogate's Office, New York City. The family became prominent in England. Sir John Lawrence, the ninth in descent from Sir Robert Lawrence, owned thirty-four manors, the revenue of which was £6,000 per annum.

The Washington and Lawrence families are connected by marriage.

Sir James Lawrence married Matilda Washington in the reign of Henry III. One Henry Lawrence, of distinction during Cromwell's time, was born in 1600, entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 1622, was a member of Parliament for Westmoreland in 1641, but withdrew when the life of the King was in jeopardy from the Independents. He contributed much to the setting up of the Protector, for which service he was made Lord President of the Protector's Council, being also one of the Lords of the other House. He married Amy, daughter of Sir Edward Peyton, Bart., of Iselham in Cambridgeshire. From 1631 to 1636 he leased his estates to Oliver

Cromwell, his second cousin. He was a member of Parliament for Hertfordshire, 1653-1654, and for Colchester borough in Essex, in 1656, and the same year was president of the Council.

Following the family to America, we find three brothers, John, William and Thomas Lawrence, ancestors of the family in this country. These brothers, as well as the above mentioned Henry Lawrence, were descended from John Lawrence, who died in 1538, and was buried in the Abbey of Ramsay. The three brothers emigrated in 1635, coming in the ship Planter, and landed at Plymouth, Mass. In the following year John and William with sixteen others, obtained the patent of Flushing, Long Island, and in 1655 the three brothers obtained possession of a tract of land in Newton, Long Island, and were mentioned as patentees of that town. On the seals appended to the wills of the brothers are impressions of the same coat of arms as that upon the tomb of Henry Lawrence.

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#### DESCENDANTS OF MRS. MARSHALL

The following are the descendants of Mrs. Milo H. Marshall, dating their lineage back to Sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall and Washington, County of Lancaster, who accompanied Richard Coeur de Lion to the Holy Land, and to the Washington family through Matil-



da Washington who married Sir James Lawrence in the reign of Henry III—to date June, 1927.

Albert Henry Marshall, son.

Children of Albert Henry Marshall and Jane Fitch his wife (Grandchildren of Mrs. Milo H. Marshall and Great Great Grandchildren of William Lawrence of Chazy):

Dorothy Helen Marshall Johnson.

Elizabeth Marjorie Marshall Rowlson.

Great Grandchildren of Mrs. Marshall and Great Great Great

Grandchildren of William Lawrence of Chazy:

Children of Dorothy Helen Marshall Johnson and Nelson F. Johnson her husband:

Barbara Heaton Johnson.

Jane Elizabeth Johnson.

Corydon Marshall Johnson.

Children of Elizabeth Marjorie Rowlson and Ira A. Rowlson her husband:

Ira Albert Rowlson.

Katherine Elizabeth Rowlson.

Marjorie Allethaire Rowlson.

Dorothy Marie Rowlson.















